

Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council

Wednesday 23 April 2025

Magna Community Room

Present: Cllrs Pemberton (Chair), Nuttall, Hutchings, Marsh, Walker, Newell, Eversden, Fitzgerald

Democratic Period:

A Parishioner attended the meeting to express their concerns about the Green Martinstown proposal, particularly the solar farm's scale and its potential divisiveness within the village.

They suggested that some villagers were unaware of the proposal and its implications, leading to surprise and concern about the solar farm's size and suggested that a balanced argument be presented to the villagers, followed by a direct vote on the proposal.

Cllr Pemberton clarified the Parish Council's position, stating that the council had been briefed on the proposal but had not considered it in a planning sense due to the lack of planning application.

It was explained that the solar farm was always part of the proposal but could be adjusted based on feedback from villagers.

Cllr Pemberton advised that the Parish Council had earmarked a small amount of money to support the development of allotments.

Cllr Newell added that any funds allocated must be for specific parts of the project.

Cllr Pemberton emphasised that the Parish Council's position was not to consider the proposal in a planning sense until planning consent was obtained.

A representative of The Green, Martinstown was present at the meeting and advised that 80 people from the village make up the membership of the group. They also advised that the length of the lease is still unknown.

54/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Newell declared an interest in item 13 due to the contractor carrying out work at his home.

55/2025 Dorset Cllr report

No update received.

56/2025 Police report

No update received.

57/2025 Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 26 March 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Hutchinson and seconded by Cllr Walker that these minutes should be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

58/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 49/2025 d) Cllr Nuttall to explore new bank account for Memorial Hall – This was discussed later in the meeting.
- b) 49/2025 d) Cllr Nuttall to produce separate document with recommendations of the Working Group – This was discussed later in the meeting.
- c) 51/2025 – Clerk & Cllr Pemberton to review Clerks contract and sign – This was discussed at the end of the meeting.

59/2025 Finance

- a) Approval of schedule of payments & bank reconciliation

Cllr Walker signed the documents. It was proposed by Cllr Eversden and seconded by Cllr Hutchings that these are accepted. All agreed.

- b) Data Protection payment

Payment reminder has been received, and it was agreed to continue with this subscription.

- c) Insurance renewal

It was agreed to review the policy and then consider at the next meeting.

- d) To consider and approve the submission of a Certificate of Exemption for the 2024/25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

The Clerk advised that as the Parish Council have in excess of £25,000 in the account, an exemption is not possible for this year's audit and therefore the full compliment of forms will be submitted.

- e) To confirm that the council is operating in accordance with the budget approved in November 2024, noting that no amendments have been proposed despite previous suggestions to establish a Budget Working Group in light of the 2023/24 underspend.

It was agreed that Cllr Pemberton continues to act as an approver of the budget.

60/2025 Planning

- a) Additional Planning document received

P/VOC/2024/03497 - Anaerobic Digester Plant, Rainbarrow Farm

It was agreed that this additional document makes no difference to the original concerns submitted and the Clerk should respond with these comments.

- b) Tree works

P/TRT/2025/02178 – The Manor House, Martinstown - T1 Lawson Cypress - Fell to ground level – For information purposes only.

61/2025 Highways, Rights of Way and SID

An email has been received from the team at Dorset Council who are managing EV charging points which advises that as part of the scheme they are installing electric vehicle charge points in Martinstown at the Burnside Layby which will hopefully be operational this summer.

62/2025 Allotments

Cllr Walker reported on the state of the allotments and concerns raised by plot holders about the allotments' appearance.

A discussion took place on whether the Parish Council could assist in tidying up the allotments. It was suggested approaching a parishioner to help remove old broken pallets, deck chairs, and other debris from the allotments.

Cllr Pemberton advised that if the cleanup could be done within £100 then Cllr Walker should proceed.

Cllr Eversden & Marsh volunteered to help if required.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact the current plot holders to ask their intentions to continue with their agreements.

63/2025 Flood, Stream & Riverbanks

Cllr Marsh advised that he is waiting for one more tender for the new contract.

64/2025 Washpool

No update.

65/2025 Grounds

Cllr Newell discussed issues with the grass cutting contract and the need to address certain areas not being maintained as expected.

The Clerk read a letter from a resident about the grass cutting and the need for better maintenance of certain areas. It was agreed a response should be sent thanking them for their comments and that additional areas may be considered as part of the new contract.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Newell advised that he is prepared to keep the portfolio of Grounds until the end of May but does not feel like he can continue with it after that.

66/2025 V & V

Cllr Fitzgerald agreed to produce the Parish Council page for the next edition.

67/2025 Village Hall Trustee

Open Gardens organised by the Village Hall will take place over the 21/22 June.

68/2025 Memorial Hall

The Clerk advised of some information received from a finance expert DAPTC consult with, which is advising of how the Parish Council can operate their responsibilities of the Memorial Hall financially.

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond confirming that the Trust isn't a Charity and if this changes any of the advice.

Action: Clerk

a) Electricity payment

Motion: To accept the document titled, Terms of Reference for the Memorial Hall Working Group (MHWG) and its content.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald

All agreed subject to amendments being made and re-issued.

Action: Cllrs Nuttall, Fitzgerald & Eversden

Motion: To reallocate the previously agreed sums of money allocated to the (now extant) Reading Room Working Group to the newly formed Memorial Hall Working Group.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald – MOTION WITHDRAWN

Motion: That the MHWG should continue to seek Title for the MH from UK Land Registry

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald

All agreed.

Motion: That no expense should be incurred on the MH other than that for essential/safety/security reasons or legal cost or services cost until such time Title has been obtained.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald – MOTION WITHDRAWN

Motion: That following (and not until) a successful Title claim has been achieved, the MH building must have a full structural survey.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald – MOTION WITHDRAWN

Motion: That the MHWG can recruit from time to time and as necessary co-opt members of the community to sit on the MHWG

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Eversden – MOTION WITHDRAWN

Motion: That, because it is believed there are many keys for the MH, the lock should be changed and new keys held by MHWG full members (not co-opted) and the Clerk

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Eversden

All agreed with two abstentions.

It was also agreed that the Working Group should approach the previous trustee to discuss the transfer of funds.

69/2025 DAPTC

- a) 2-star award for training

A certificate from DAPTC has been received to recognise the training some of the Parish Council members have attended.

70/2025 External correspondence received

An email has been received expressing concern with the grass cutting contract. This was covered in item 65/2025.

71/2025 Parish Matters

Cllr Marsh expressed concern with the behaviour of some dogs in the village and asked that reminders to dog owners be included in the V & V.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2049 with notice that the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting of Parish Council on Wednesday 28 May 2025, 6.30pm followed by May's Parish Council Meeting, 7pm at Magna Community Room.